



HB 4561 + HB 4564

### **Michigan's Greenhouse Industry**

The Michigan Floriculture Growers Council (MFGC) was established on October 1, 2005 after a plant disease outbreak (*Ralstonia*) occurred in a Michigan greenhouse. Michigan Greenhouse owners needed assistance with policy, and a recovery plan after USDA destroyed plants. When originally established, MFGC focused on floriculture production. But, in 2017 Michigan *Floriculture* Growers Council members voted to become the Michigan *Greenhouse* Growers Council (MGGC) and include the entire greenhouse industry, (not just flower growers).

As a statewide organization, MGGC realizes the importance of having a strong, cohesive association that represents the grower segment of our industry and focuses on public policy, legislation and keeping Michigan growers informed about relevant issues.

### **Here are some facts about Michigan's Greenhouse Industry:**

- 2015 Agriculture statistics show Michigan leading the nation in value of sales for 14 floriculture crops including flats of begonias, seed geraniums, impatiens, and petunias; potted geraniums, petunias, hostas and Easter lilies; and hanging baskets of begonias, geraniums, impatiens, and petunias
- Michigan is 2nd in production of annual bedding/garden plants at \$209 million wholesale
- Michigan ranks third nationally in floriculture production (behind California and Florida)
- Floriculture is the fourth largest commodity in Michigan
- Michigan's 556 commercial growers show an expanded wholesale value of over \$409 million
- Michigan employs over 13,000 greenhouse/nursery workers
- Michigan is becoming a hot spot for greenhouse vegetable, hydro and aquaculture production

### **Michigan Greenhouse Growers Policy Priorities:**

- Preserve the agriculture exemption to encourage growth in the industry
- Oppose real property taxation for energy-related equipment
- Seek grower compensation for government ordered plant destruction
- Ensure access to water. Continue to monitor water legislation and its impact on growers
- Shift the responsibility of immigration laws and enforcement to the federal level/ away from growers
- Eliminate unfair importation of products that take business from Michigan/US growers
- The MGGC is currently working with the Michigan legislature on HB 4561 to correct the Michigan Treasury's attempt to tax greenhouse agriculture production